

## Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00 INR-07

NSAE-00 DODE-00 PA-02 PRS-01 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00

NEAE-00 SAM-01 SAB-01 IO-13 DHA-02 /064 W

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O R 141400Z APR 76

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO USINFO WASHDC IMMEDIATE

SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9588

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

USINT BAGHDAD

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USIA FOR IOP/M, IPS, IBS, INA

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SOPN, PFOR, XF, LE

SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION: AMBASSADOR BROWN ACTIVITIES

REF: USIA 11406

1. SUMMARY. EXTENSIVE COVERAGE OF AMBASSADOR BROWN'S ACTIVITIES FOCUSES PRIMARILY ON "OPTIMISM" PREVAILING DURING VISITS YESTERDAY WITH PRESIDENT FRANJIEH AND OTHER CHRISTIAN LEADERS. LEFTIST "AL MOHARRIR" CARRIES LENGTHY REPORT PURPORTEDLY BASED ON AMBASSADOR'S PREVIOUS CONVERSATIONS WITH CHRISTIAN LEADERS WHO ADVANCED FEDERATION PLAN. BROWN IS REPORTED TO HAVE TOLD MARONITE LEADERS TO ACCEPT LOSS OF PRIVILEGED POSITIONS AND WORK TO BRIDGE SOCIAL GULFS SEPARATING DIVERSE ELEMENTS OF LEBANESE POPULATION. PAPERS ALSO REPORT RUMOR BROWN SLATED TO BE NEXT U.S. AMBASSADOR TO LEBANON, UNCLASSIFIED

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AND HIS DENIAL OF RUMOR. (END SUMMARY)

2. LEADING INDEPENDENT "ANA NAHAR" REPORTS THAT "WHAT CAN BE CONCLUDED FROM AMERICAN ENVOY'S TALKS YESTERDAY WITH CHRISTIAN RELIGIOUS AND POLITICAL LEADERS IS FACT THAT DESPITE DETERIORATION OF SECURITY, WAVE OF OPTIMISM PREVAILED THROUGHOUT THESE MEETINGS. MR. BROWN EXPRESSED NECESSITY OF HASTENING ELECTION OF NEW PRESIDENT AND DECLARED NO SOLUTION TO ANY PROBLEM CAN BE ACHIEVED WITHOUT AGREEMENT OF ALL LEBANESE. HE SAID HE NOW FEELS A CONSENSUS OVER SYRIAN INITIATIVE, AS WELL AS ANY SINCERE INITIATIVE AIMED AT HELPING LEBANESE EMERGE FROM THEIR TRAGEDY...

3. "FATHER KASSIS OF MARONITE MONASTERIES TOLD AN NAHAR 'BROWN GAVE US OPTIMISM, ONE ELEMENT OF WHICH IS HIS QUICK UNDERSTANDING OF THE LEBANESE SITUATION, EXPECIALLY SINCE HE IS NOT BOTHERED BY OTHER EFFORTS EXERTED BEFORE AND DURING HIS OWN MEDIATION. IT APPEARS HE WANTS THE GOOD FROM WHATEVER QUARTER, AND IT IS OUR HOPE THAT HIS EFFORTS WILL CALL FORTH THE GOOD EFFORTS OF OTHERS AND WE CAN EMERGE FROM THIS GOLGOTHA IN WHICH WE LIVE...'

4. "AFTER MEETING SITH CHAMOUN BROWN WAS ASKED FOR HIS ANSWER TOPALESTINIAN LEADERS WHO HAVE REQUESTED HIM TO END HIS MISSION HERE. HE REPLIED 'THE PALESTINIANS ARE VERY GOOD PEOPLE AND I DO NOT WANT TO ENTER HERE INTO ANY DISCUSSION WITH THEM BECAUSE I WANT TO TALK HERE WITH OUR LEBANESE FRIENDS. I HOPE THAT OUR PALESTINIAN FRIENDS WILL GIVE US AN OPPORTUNITXVY TO PROGRESS, IN ORDER TO SOLVE THE LEBANESE CRISIS.'"

5. LEFTIST, PRO-KGBM "AL MOHARRIR" REPORTS THAT "BUSINESSMEN WHO MET WITH MR. BROWN HAVE DISCLOSED THAT THE KASLIK MARONITE FRONT HAD DRAWN UP PLAN FOR CONFEDERATION SUPPORTED BY MAP AND THAT THEY TOLD MR. BROWN THIS WAS ONLY SOLUTION ACCEPTABLE TO THEM. BROWN PROMSED TO INFORM UNCLASSIFIED

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WASHINGTON OF THE FRONT'S VIEWS BUT HE RACOMMENDEED THE PLAN BE SHELVED SINCE IT IS IMPRACTICABLE AND SEPARATIONIST TRENDS ARE NOT SUPPORTED BY THE U.S. OR EUROPE. KASLIK FRONT LEADERS ASKED THE AMERICAN ENVOY FOR A FORCE TO DEFEND THEM MADE UP OF AMERICAN, FRENCH AND SYRIAN FORCES. BROWN TOLD THEM THIS IS IMPOSSIBLE FOR MANY REASONS, MOST IMPORTANT OF WHICH IS THAT U.S. HAS DECIDED NOT TO DEPEND ON MILITARY

INTERVENTIONS IN SUCH CASES, NEITHER IN LEBANO NOR ELSEWHERE. HE SAID THAT EUROPE ALSO IS NOT PREPARED FOR MILITARY INTERVENTION. SECURITY FORCES QUALIFIED TO CARRY OUT THE MISSION ARE LEBANESE, SYRIAN AND PALESTINIAN FORCES.

6. "IT WAS SAID MR. BROWN ALSO GAVE SOME ADVICE TO THE KASLIK LEADERS, TELLING THEM IT IS ILLOGICAL FOR THEM TO EXPECT TO CONTINUE ENJOYING CONCESSIONS. IT IS NECESSARY TO TAKE AN INTEREST IN BACKWARD AREAS, SINCE THERE SHOULD BE NO VAST DIFFERENCES BETWEEN ONE AREA AND ANOTHER. UNLESS THESE CONCESSIONS ARE RELINQUISHED, GG REAL REFORM CAN BE ACHIEVED AND CRISIS WILL NOT BE SOLVED. IT WAS ALSO REPORTED THAT BROWN EXPRESSED HIS BELIEF THAT PRESIDENT FRANJIEH'S REPUTATION AND PRESTIGE HAVE BEEN GREATLY ERODED AND RECOMMENDS THAT THE PRESIDENT EXPEDITE HIS RESIGNATION.

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AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

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7. "ON THE OTHER HAND BROWN EXPRESSED HIS BELIEF

THAT JUMBLATT'S REPUTATION HAS BEEN ENHANCED AND

SAID HE PERSONALLY ADMIRES JUMBLATT. HE SAID THE LEFTIST GROUP HAS AN OUTSTANDING, ACTIVE AND DYNAMIC LEADER BUT THAT UNDER THE PREVAILING CIRCUMSTANCES HE POLARIZES THE MAJORITY OF THE LEBANESE. BROWN CONCLUDED BY CALLING UPON THE BUSINESSMEN TO BRIDGE THE GAP BETWEEN THE NATIONAL MOVEMENT WITH JUMBLATT AT ITS HEAD AND THE SYRIANS. HE BELIEVES THE SYRIAN INITIATIVE MUST BE SUPPORTED AND FACILITATED BECAUSE A SETTLEMENT IS NEEDED AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

8. "MR. BROWN APPEALED TO HIS PALESTINIAN FRIENDS, WHO STRONGLY OPPOSE THE AMERICAN MEDIATION, TO LET HIM PARTICIPATE IN SEARCH FOR SOLUTION OF THE CRISIS."

9. CONSERVATIVE, PRO-EGYPTIAN "AL ANWAR" REPORTED THAT AMBASSADOR'S MEETINGS WITH CHRISTIANS YESTERDAY UNCLASSIFIED

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WERE POSITIVE AND "THE AMERICAN ENVOY EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT THE NEW PRESIDENT WILL BE ELECTED IN ATMOSPHERE OF SECURITY AND THAT LEBANESE WILL AGREE WITH NEW PRESIDENT ON FUTURE SOLUTIONS SO THAT HE CAN START IMPLEMENTING THEM IMMEDIATELY. BROWN RE-EMPHASIZED THAT HIS COUNTRY PLEDGES TO WORK FOR THE RECONSTRUCTION OF LEBANON AFTER THE CRISIS IS SETTLED. HE ALSO EMPHASIZED SUPPORT OF PRESIDENT FORD FOR SYRIAN INITIATIVE, INDICATING NECESSITY OF ITS SUCCESS.

10. INDEPENDENT "L'ORIENT-LE JOUR" QUOTED AMBASSADOR AS SAYING AFTER VISIT WITH PATRIARCH KHREISH THAT "NJ IS A GREAT MAN AND I HOPE TO COME BACK TO TALK WITH HIM FURTHER AND EXAMINE THE SOLUTIONS TO THE PROBLEMS CONFRONTING THE COUNTRY." PAPER SAID THAT "AFTER DENYING RUMOR THAT HIS GOVERNMENT IS ABOUT TO NOMINATE HIM AMBASSADOR TO LEBANON, MR. BROWN SAID HE DID NOT KNOW WHEN HE WILL RETURN TO WASHINGTON."

11. "L'ORIENT-LE JOUR" ALSO CARRIES KUWAIT AFP STORY QUOTING SAIQA LEADER ZUHARI MOHSIN AS SAYING IN INTERVIEW WITH KUWAITI DAILY "AL QABAS" THAT "SYRIA WILL NOT CONTINUE ITS MEDIATION IN LEBANON SO LONG AS AMERICAN ENVOY DEAN BROWN REMAINS IN BEIRUT." REPORT ALSO QUOTES MOHSIN AS SAYING "ONLY DIFFICULTY FACING ANY EFFECTIVE, NATIONAL SOLUTION IS ISRAELI-AMERICAN POSITION. THIS DIFFICULTY IS VANISHING SINCE U.S. IS INCAPABLE OF PRESENTING A DE FACTO SOLUTION TO CONFLICT AND BECAUSE EUROPE, AND

PARTICULARLY FRANCE, WISH TO REACH AN EARLY SOLUTION  
NOW THAT SITUATION HAS REACHED A POINT OF NO RETURN."

12. CONSERVATIVE "AL ANWAR" REPORTS ZUHAIR MOHSIN  
CRITICIZED JUMBLATT, SAYING "HE IS GAMBLING WITH  
LIVES OF THE LEBANESE AND THEIR UNITY AND THE FATE  
OF THE PALESTINIAN REVOLUTION AND ARAB REVOLUTION  
MOVEMENT IN GENERAL." PAPER SAYS MOHSIN EXPRESSED "SURPRISE THAT  
JUMBLATT PREFERS AMERICAN AND INTERNATIONAL MEDIATION  
TO SYRIAN MEDIATION."

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